

CORIXIDS (HEMIPTERA:HETEROPTERA) ATTRACTED TO AUTOMOBILE ROOF¹

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On July 13, 1978, a hot (ca. 90 F), dry, clear, moderate breezy day, we were collecting just off Arizona State Rte. 61, in Apache Co., about three miles west of the New Mexico border. About a dozen *Hesperocorixa laevigata* (Uhler) flew to the automobile (a turquoise-blue Datsun) over the course of an hour, hitting its roof, often hard enough to be stunned. We collected nine of these insects. We assume the corixids mistook the glare from the automobile for water, and landed heavily to penetrate what they took to be the surface film.

Although there had been flood rains earlier in the Spring, no rain had fallen for at least a week previous. We saw no standing water that day, but the area has water, the Rio Puerco running to the north and the Little Colorado to the south; and the junction near by of several important highways suggests the presence of permanent wells.

We believe the corixids were seeking new waters to colonize. The need to migrate was probably intensified by population pressure, the heavy rains of the previous Spring having provided more than the usual amount of habitat.

Other insects have been similarly confused. The hydrophilid, *Helophorus brevivalpis* Bedel, has been reported attracted to automobile roofs in large numbers (Benham, 1976; Last, 1976); and here in Connecticut several species of mayfly have been seen swarming over an automobile roof (R. Pupedis, pers. comm., 1979). Indeed, in 1932, several thousand corixids, *Arctocorixa nitida* Fieber, plummeted onto "the bright top of the new auto," many of them striking it upside-down and then making swimming motions (Fattig, 1932). Doubtless other records, published and unpublished, exist.

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REFERENCES CITED

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